



## Palmer Drug Abuse Program

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### **Palmer Drug Abuse Program, SOBERAUSTIN.com and Riverbend Church to Host “NOT MY CHILD” For Austin Parents**

*Free Event to Provide Parents With Knowledge And Proactive Steps to Help Curb Teenage Substance Abuse*

AUSTIN, Texas—On Wednesday, Apr. 21, the Palmer Drug Abuse Program (PDAP), SOBERAUSTIN.com and Riverbend Church will co-host the “NOT MY CHILD” seminar, an event for parents interested in taking proactive steps to help children stay away from alcohol and illegal substances. The event will take place at Riverbend Church from 7 to 9 p.m.

“Most middle-school and high school students will have the opportunity to drink and take drugs,” Gregg Sellers, executive director of PDAP, said. “We want to be sure parents are armed with knowledge on how they can help their children recognize these potentially dangerous situations and how to get out of them.”

The event will feature a panel by local adolescent substance addiction expert, Lori K. Holleran Steiker, Ph.D., ACSW, testimonials from adolescents and young adults who overcame addiction, and a question and answer session with Steiker.

PDAP has been helping young Austinites out of substance abuse for nearly 30 years. The program aids teenagers and young adults overcoming addiction through an approach similar to the Alcoholics Anonymous’ 12-step program, with some modifications to address issues commonly seen among teenagers and young adults in recovery.

The Travis County Attorney’s Office reports that nearly one out of four Austin Independent School District eighth-graders have tried alcohol, a slightly higher rate than their counterparts throughout the rest of the state. Additionally, the

Travis County Juvenile Probation Department states that nearly half of its caseload involves substance-abusing juveniles.

NOT MY CHILD is a collaboration between Palmer Drug Abuse Program, SOBERAUSTIN.com, Riverbend Church, and Memorial Hermann Prevention and Recovery Program. The April program is sponsored by Texas Star Recovery, Seton Shoal Creek, and Phoenix House.

Riverbend Church is located at 4214 North Capital of Texas Highway. For additional information about the program, please call Paulette Schwartz at (512) 512-3045 or see Local Events on [www.SOBERAUSTIN.com](http://www.SOBERAUSTIN.com).

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**About Palmer Drug Abuse Program**

The Palmer Drug Abuse Program (PDAP) was started in 1971 at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston by Father Charles Wyatt-Brown. Father Charlie, as he was affectionately known, gave teenagers and young adults a place where they could meet to discuss their problems with drugs and alcohol. Since its inception, PDAP has expanded to serve eight Texas. For additional information and resources, please visit us on the Web at [www.pdapaustin.org](http://www.pdapaustin.org).